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SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" What happened to the application made by the Bellary Housing Committee for the establishment of these housing societies? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I think the hon. Member and myself went round Bellary and we thought Bellary is in a very happy position so far as housing is concerned. It is advantageously situated. Therefore, the scheme will be taken up very quickly and something will be done there."

Instructions from Central Road Traffic Board to the Chingleput District Traffic Board to omit certain items in the agenda.

* 103 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Road Traffic Board month after month issue instructions to the Chingleput District Traffic Board just when it begins its sittings to postpone some of the items in the agenda;

(b) whether such procedure does not interfere with the normal work of the Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that this continued adjournment greatly inconveniences the concerned applicants for routes and causes loss to them;

(d) whether it is the policy of the Government to take into consideration the interest of the small bus owners in the district as much as that of the Madras City fleet owners;

(e) whether the Government propose to give consideration to the interests of the travelling public more than that of the fleet owners; and

(f) whether the Government propose to issue orders to permit the small bus owners who have applied for routes and who have got their buses ready, to run on the roads till nationalization of transport by Government is taken up on those routes?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) It is not correct to say that the Central Road Traffic Board issues month after month instructions to the Road Traffic Board, Chingleput, to postpone consideration of some of the items of business on the agenda of the latter. In July and August 1947 consideration by the Road Traffic Board, Chingleput, of subjects relating to the grant of permits for new routes touching Madras was stayed by the Central Road Traffic Board as the question of reservation of these routes for operators in the Madras City, who would be thrown out of business on account of the nationalization scheme, was then under consideration.

" (b) The answer is in the negative. Compliance with the directions of the Central Road Traffic Board should be taken as part of the normal work of the Board.

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"(c) The action taken was in the public interest. But the policy of the Government is that such directions for stay should be avoided as far as possible.

"(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(e) It has always been the policy of Government to give greater consideration to the interests of the travelling public than to those of the fleet owners.

"(f) Government have already issued orders that the claims of existing operators as well as new applicants should be duly considered and the best operator chosen pending the nationalization of bus transport."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"Is it the policy of the Government to encourage the fleet owners of Madras in preference to small bus owners of the district?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—"Government have issued orders to these fleet owners also that they should apply for routes and each application will be decided on its merits."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"Is it the policy of the Government that the poor bus owners of the district should be ignored in preference to the fleet owners?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—"No, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Central Road Traffic Board is not an appellate body over the decisions of the District Traffic Board?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—"In certain matters, Sir, it is so."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Is it right, Sir, to give directions being an appellate authority to the District Board how they should conduct their proceedings, what items to dispose of and what items to keep pending?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—"It is very well known, Sir, that every appellate authority has a right of staying the proceedings of the lower courts."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Was there any application made and this was asked to be kept pending by the Central Road Traffic Board?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—"Sir, the position is this. For various routes applications were made by bus operators in Chingleput and it came up before the Road Traffic Board and at the same time applications were made by the Madras operators that they should be given preference and the question was pending consideration with Central Road Traffic Board and the Government and therefore it was thought desirable to stop the proceeding of the Road Traffic Board."

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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Central Road Traffic Board received a number of complaints from the applicants of the district? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Sir, the Government have made it absolutely clear that so far as the allotment of routes is concerned, all will be treated in the same manner, i.e., the fleet owners of the city, the small bus owners and others and each application will be decided on its merit and the best operator will be selected."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the fleet owners were encouraged during the Advisers' regime and the Congress Government that followed it changed the policy of the Government? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Yes, Sir, we have changed."

Sugar mills in the Province.

* 104 Q.—SRI P. VIRABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of sugar mills in the Province; where they are; what their capacity is;

(*b*) whether the Government have received applications for permission to start new factories;

(*c*) if the answer is in the affirmative, the names of the applicants with their addresses;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to take shares in the new factories that may be started; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to start any sugar factories themselves?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) There are 14 sugar mills existing at present in this Province. The Government have permitted the starting of nine new sugar factories of a total cane crushing capacity of 4,700 tons and the expansion of three existing factories by 1,300 tons. A statement [a] showing the location of existing factories, their capacities and the expansion permitted and the location of new factories and their capacities is laid on the table of the House.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) A list showing the names of the applicants and their addresses is also placed on the table of the House.

" (*d*) *and* (*e*) A committee has been constituted to advice the Government on the nature and extent of control which should be exercised over industries. The Committee has submitted a preliminary report. The report has been published for eliciting public opinion."

SRI P. VIRABHADRASWAMI :—" Have the firms who were granted permission started construction work? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 563-564 infra.